Aircraft employee ratio in IA

*226. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian Airlines plans to shed 7,000 personnel as a cost saving measure to bring its aircraft employee ratio down to international standards;

(b) whether the ratio will still be double of what it is in Singapore Airlines where the ratio is as low as 161 per aircraft; and

(c) if so, in what manner the airlines plans to achieve this and what is the time-frame for its completion?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) to (c) the staff strength of India Airlines including Alliance Air (a wholly owned subsidiary of Indian Airlines) as on 31st May, 2002 is 20,605. with the current strength of 57 aircraft, the aircraft/employee ratio is 1:361. This ratio is normally not comparable with other international airlines as the requirement of the employees varies from airlines to airline, and it also depends on extent of operation, nature of fleet and activities undertaken directly;

There is present no proposal to shed 7000 personnel to bring down the aircraft/employee ratio. Indian Airlines has, however, taken various steps to contain its manpower by freezing fresh recruitment in non-operational categories and rolling back retirement age from 60 to 58 years and is also considering introducing a Voluntary Retirement Scheme.

Relocation of petrol pumps on highways

*227. SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned 'Oil Companies National Highway Authority of India at loggerheads over relocating pumps on highways' which appeared in the Indian Express dated 25th June, 2002;

(b) whether oil companies have expressed their difficulties to relocate the existing pumps as it will imply an expenditure of anything between Rs.25 lakhs to Rs.2 crores for each pump;